

THE IMMIGRATION OF LEPIDOPTERA TO THE BRITISH ISLES IN 1982, 1983, 1984 AND 1985

A SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE

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Since the reports on immigrations of these years were written additional records have been received or have otherwise come to light. These may now be added, as below, to the main reports in *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **95**: 89-94, 141-152; **96**: 85-91, 147-159; **97**: 140-145, 183-185, 196-202, and to the previous supplementary report *ibid.* **97**: 76-94.

1982

Additions to Annexe II — Scarce immigrant species:

Rhodometra sacraria L. ESSEX S. Grays, 8.9 (Agassiz in Plant, *Lond. Nat.* **65**: 23) HERTS. Welwyn, 18.5 (Waterton in Plant, *ibid.*) MIDDLESEX Ickenham, 26.9 (Rough & Weaver in Plant, *ibid.*)

Agrius convolvuli L. BERKS. Binfield (Bunker, *Bull. amat. Ent. Soc.* **42**: 37). KENT W. Dartford, 30.9, male on gate post (B. K. West in Plant *Lond. Nat.* **65**: 24)

Acherontia atropos L. MIDDLESEX Ickenham, 26.9 (Rough & Weaver *ibid.* **62**: 123). SURREY Wandsworth, 7.9 (Messenbird in Plant *ibid.* **65**: 25) WORCS. Tenbury Wells, August, found in bee hive. (Mrs. Hoyer per E. J. Green).

Spodoptera exigua Hubn. ESSEX S. Grays, 23.7, two (Agassiz in Plant, *ibid.* **65**: 28).

Of the usually common butterflies, the range in Scotland of *Colius croceus* Fourc. was extended by records of one seen in Fife on the Isle of May on 3.6 and of several at Dunfermline in early August (P. K. Kinnear). There were also many further accounts of *Cynthia cardui* L. These were mainly near the south coast, as at Shaftsbury, Dorset, where larvae were found on August 22 and 28 and 20 adults were counted on buddleia in a garden on October 3rd. Also reported singly at Keepham, Norfolk and Hexham, Northumberland, August 31st. Further records of *Macroglossa stellatarum* L. added Buckinghamshire, Caernarvon, Glamorgan, Herefordshire and Somerset to the counties where it was previously reported, and it was also seen in Guernsey.

*Folly Hill, Birtley Green, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey.

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1983

Add to Annexe II — Additional species;

Sceliodes laisalis Walker. BEDS Luton, 30.7 (K. F. Webb). SURREY Wimbledon, 18.7 (Sir John Dacie). Also Editorial note; 2nd and 3rd British records, probably immigrants. (*Ent. Rec.* 96: 123).

Colias hyale L. or **C. australis** Verity. GLOS. S. St. inchcombe Hill, male 23.7; Saltford railway station, 5.9, (A. Meadowcroft, W. Duckworth per C. J. Carey, Bristol Regional Environmental Centre).

Nymphalis antiopa L. ESSEX S. Epping town centre, 14.7 (B. W. Castle); Roding Valley near Loughton, late July (Mrs. M. Chalke in Plant, *Lond. Nat.* 64: 48)

***Nymphalis polychloros** L. HERTS. Bushey, early in spring (per French); Radlett, 29.5, very fresh on buddleia (B. Wildridge in Plant *ibid* 64: 48).

Cyclophora puppillaria Hubn. ESSEX S. East Tilbury, 1983 (Emmet & Pyman in Plant *ibid.* 65: 23).

Rhometra sacraria L. DORSET Preston, 8.11, 9.11 (M. Cade); GLOS. S. Clifton Suspension Bridge (W. Duckworth per C. J. Carey) KENT W. Charlton, 4.6, female, 17.6, male (A. A. Allen in Plant *ibid.* 64:53); West Wickham, 25.8, two males; Bromley Common, 26.8; Lincs N. Messingham, 8.9, eight; Scotton Common, 23.9, two (per J. Duddington). MIDDLESEX Hampstead, 25.7 (P. R. Hall in Plant *ibid.* 64:58); Potters Bar, 19.9 (R. Lovell-Pank in Plant *ibid.*) SURREY Putney, 1.10 (Sealey in Plant *ibid.* 65:23). CO. OFFALY, 24.8, two; CO. WICKLOW, 21.5 (per R. F. Haynes).

Orthonama obstipata Hubn. MIDDLESEX Hampstead, 25.7 (P. R. Hall in Plant *ibid.* 64: 59).

***Euproctis chrysorrhoea** L. MIDDLESEX Buckingham Palace garden, 13.7, c.24 in trap, all males (J. D. Bradley in Plant *ibid.* 64: 52). SURREY Thorpe, 13.9 (P. J. Baker *Proc. Trans. Br. ent. Nat. Hist. Soc.* 19:45).

Spodoptera littoralis Boisd. BERKS. Longworth, late June, very worn, in trap. Identity *teste* D. J. Carter (A. Kennard *Ent. Gaz.* 36:180).

Lithacodia deceptor Scop. SUSSEX E. Peasmarsh, 16.7 (T. Scott, AES Exhibition 1984)

Heliothis peltigera D. & S. MIDDLESEX Hampstead Garden Suburb, 9.7 (R. T. Lowe in Plant *Lond. Nat.* 64: 59).

Further records of *Macroglossa stellatarum* add Cambridgeshire, Worcestershire and Yorkshire VC 61 to the numbers of English and Welsh counties; but in Ireland only six were reported from Co. Kerry, Co. Waterford and Co. Wexford.

1984

Add to Annexe I — Names of direct recorders;

J. D. Barrence, D. A. Chambers, C. B. Collins, B. O. C. Gardiner, S. M. Jackson, J. Owen, A. Kennard, E. C. Pelham-Clinton, R. W. J. Read, G. Senior, Dr. S. Sutton.

Add to Annexe II — Addititonal species:

Costaconvexa polygrammata Bork. JERSEY, 25/28.8, in Rothamstead trap (A. M. Riley, *Ent. Gaz.* 37:68). Possible immigrant, with other species at that time. The last British record is Cambridge, 1879, a specimen in the Hope Coll. at Oxford.

Thaumetopeia processionea L. JERSEY, 20/21.8, in Rothamsted trap (A. M. Riley, *Ent. Rec.* 98:146). Probably 3rd British record. Possibly immigrant.

Cyclophora puppillaria Hubn. DORSET, Durlston Head, Swanage, 1.11 (P. J. Baker, *Proc. Bri. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.* 17:89).

Catocala sponsa L. DEVON S. Sidmouth, 24.8, 27.8, in trap, both worn. (A. Kennard, *Ent. Gaz.* 36: 173). HANTS S. Southsea, 2.8, in trap (J. R. Langmaid, *Ent. Gaz.* 36:30). Possibly immigrant, known places of residence being distant.

Add to Annexe II — Additional records;

***Papilio machaon** L. ESSEX S. Walthamstowe, early July, race not specified (Jacobs in Plant *Lond. Nat.* 65:21). Possible immigrant.

Nymphalis antiopa L. HERTS. Hailey Lane, 19.9 (F. Earl in Plant *Lond. Nat.* 64:48). MIDDLESEX Isle of Dogs (Murdoch in Plant *ibid.* 65:22). WILTS. N. Luckington, early September, on rotten apples (J. Thomson-Glover, *Bull. amat. Ent. Soc.* 45: 61). WORCS. Himbleton Manor, near Droitwich, 10/13.9, visited apples and honey in kitchen, closely seen (Cynthia, The Lady Sandys per J. E. Green).

Rhodometra sacraria L. DEVON S. Sidmouth, 25.8, (A. Kennard *ibid.*) ESSEX S. Coxtie Green, 2.9, (Wanstall in Plant *Lond. Nat.* 65:23). Co. WICKLOW Bray Head, 25.8, (R. F. Haynes, *I.N.J.* 21: 506).

Agrius convolvuli L. CORNWALL W. Coverack, 20.9. SOMERSET N. Lymphsham, 13.9 (E. C. Pelham-Clinton).

Acherontia atropos L. DORSET Durlston Head, Swanage, 1.11 (P. J. Baker *Proc. Trans. Br. ent. Nat. Hist. Soc.* 17:89). HUNTS. Wiston, 12.9, two larvae in potato field (M. S. L. Simpson *Bull. amat. Ent. Soc.* 44:25).

Eilema caniola Hubn. KENT E. Greatstone, 24.8 (S. Clancy *Ent. Rec.* 99:58).

Lymantria dispar L. JERSEY 31.7/1.8, in Rothamsted trap (A. M. Riley *Ent. Rec.* 98: 146).

Of the commoner species we now have records of *Colias croceus* Fourc. from St. Mary's Scilly, 14.10, two and Thorney Island, West Sussex, four; of *Cynthia cardui* L. from Hardwick, Cambs., 1.9; and of *Macroglossa stellatarum* L. in the north at Bentham, Yorkshire, and Gordon, Berwickshire. In Ireland 122 were reported, with the greatest concentration (59) in Co. Waterford (R. F. Haynes, *I.N.J.* 21:505).

1985

Add to Annexe I — Names of recorders:

V. M. Albertini, J. Badmin, A. S. Boot, M. Cade, G. J. Carey (Bristol Regional Environment Centre), D. A. Chambers, P. K. Kinnear, E. T. Lévy, S. Nash, C. W. Plant, M. Rodgers, S. Swanson, P. Q. Winter, M. R. Young.

Delete from Annexe II — Scarce immigrant species:

under **Rhodometra sacraria**, Co. CORK W. 9.10, 12.10, two (MGWT).

Add to Annexe II — Scarce immigrants, as additional species:

Euchromius ocella Haw. YORKS. VC 63, Netherton, 16.10 (H. E. Beaumont *Ent. Rec.* 98: 212).

Sceliodes laisalis Walker. LEICESTER 29.7.1979, one in garden trap. Identified 1986 by M. Sterling (D. F. Owen *Ent. Rec.* 98: 203). Second British capture.

Palpita unionalis Hubn. HANTS. Isle of Wight. Freshwater, 14.10 (*Proc. Trans. Br. ent. Nat. Hist. Soc.* 19:59).

***Nymphalis polychloros** L. BUCKS. near Rickmansworth, 21.7 (Anderson per A. M. George in *Plant Lond. Nat.* 65:22). SUFFOLK E. near Woodbridge, 1985, photographed by G. Padfield. (Mendel & Pietrowski, *Butterflies of Suffolk*, p.89).

Nymphalis antiopa L. SUSSEX E. Nutley, Ashdown Forest, 24.7 (Mrs. Hope per D. Dey). SUFFOLK E. Sibton, early spring, four wings found in work-room. (Mrs. M. Wells in Mendel & Pietrowski, *ibid.* 92).

Rhodometra sacraria L. BERKS. Fernham, 18.9, two, 20 & 24.9 (S. Nash); Uffington, 22.9, 26.9 (E. W. Classey *Ent. Gaz.* 37:61); DEVON S. Axminster, 9.10, two (E. C. Pelham-Clinton). KENT W.

East Malling, 25.9, 26.9 (D. A. Chambers). SOMERSET N. Knowle, 25.7; Weston-in-Gordano, 24.9 (per G. J. Carey).

Agrius convolvuli L. Co. ARMAGH, one (R. F. Haynes *I. N. J.* 22: 113). Co. WEXFORD, one (*ibid.*).

Acherontia atropos L. Co. Down, June (R. F. Haynes *ibid.*)

***Euxoa cursoria** Hufn. ESSEX N. Dovercourt, 22.9 (M. Anthoney per B. Skinner).

Mythimna loreyi Dup. Co. CORK W. Cape Clear Island, 9.10, 12.10, two (M.G.W. Terry).

Spodoptera exigua Hubn. BERKS. 27.7, 29.7, 6.8 two, 13/28.8 five (S. Nash). KENT E. Dungeness, 5.10 (D. E. Wilson). KENT W. East Malling, 24.7 (D. A. Chambers).

Heliothis peltigera D. & S. BERKS. Fernham 16.7 (S. Nash); KENT E. Selling 19.7 (S. Nash).

There are also important additional records of commoner species, especially from the almost daily log of sightings at Portland Bill bird observatory, Dorset. For *Cynthia cardui* this gave a total of 48 during the April immigration, also sudden increases in numbers from May 26 and 30, in the last days of August and in mid September, and finally on October 14th, which agree with other indications of large influxes around these dates. During the whole year some 770 *cardui* were noted there. We also now have records of good numbers of adults and some larvae at Muston, on the coast of Yorkshire, and further north of two seen by bird-watchers on the Isle of Canna, Inner Hebrides, on July 12th. In Ireland the total noted in the year was nearly 1300; but most of these were at Cape Clear Island and elsewhere in the south west, with a small penetration northwards to Co. Down. In contrast, however, of *C. croceus* only three can be added to the British records, all at Portland Bill on April 4th and September 19th and 21st; and in Ireland the "pitiful" total for the year was three, in Co. Kilkenny and Co. Waterford (R. F. Haynes *I. N. J.* 22: 113). For *V. atalanta* a record of one at Wendens Ambo, North Essex on April 18 may be added.

Of the commoner moths, the few additional records confirm that *Peridroma saucia* was not uncommon at Portland, Dorset and Trebrownebridge, East Cornwall August to October; but it was hardly seen elsewhere. Of *Autographa gamma* there was a notable maximum of 72 on October 12 at Portland Bill, but, though it occurred regularly there from May 18 onwards, it was otherwise never really numerous either there or at Axminster, South Devon. *Agrotis ipsilon* improved its numbers somewhat in the autumn, but also nowhere became common, and the same was true of *Udea ferrugalis*. There were a few additional records of *Macroglossa stellatarum* from Dorset and Kent in August, and a surprising one seen flying over a heather bog at Plockton, Wester Ross on June

19th, which is by far the most northerly British sighting. In Ireland only 18 were reported, mostly from Co. Cork.

These additions do not much alter the relative importance of the years: 1982 rather above average, 1983 outstanding both for numbers of species and individuals, 1984 generally poor, 1985 distinguished for its great April invasion, but later rather poor.

EUPITHECIA LARICIATA FREYER (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE), THE LARCH PUG, IN DUMFRIES-SHIRE — *E. lariciata* is widely distributed throughout Scotland but existing records are patchy and probably incomplete. This is illustrated well by the capture of several individuals in the Rothamsted Insect Survey light trap at Mabie, near Dumfries (O.S. Grid ref. NX951 707, Site No. 454) during 1986. *Lariciata* has not, to my knowledge, been previously recorded from Dumfries-shire.

This extension in the known distribution of *lariciata* is not surprising as the species is easily confused with several others of the genus *Eupithecia* and has almost certainly been overlooked. However, what is interesting about the present records is their lateness. The usual flight period is May and June (Skinner, B. 1984. *Colour Identification Guide to the Moths of the British Isles*, pp 47-48. Viking). However, only one individual from the 1986 Mabie records was caught during this period (7th June), 17 others being recorded between 12th July and 19th August. Whether this represents a strong second brood, (the possibility of a second brood in this species has been discussed before (Riley, A. M. 1986. *Ent. Rec.* 98: 207-208)), or a markedly later flight period than known from other localities, is open to speculation at the present time.

Thanks are extended to Mr. P. Harrison for operating the trap at Mabie. — ADRIAN M. RILEY, Entomology Department, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2JQ.

FOODPLANTS OF CACOECIMORPHA PRONUBANA HÜBN. — To add to the lengthening list of unlikely larval foodplants of this bright and lively Tortrix, I should like to report having bred it here from single larvae found feeding, one on a potted plant of *Chamaecyparis pisifera*, the other inside the corolla of a daffodil flower. It is certainly beginning to look as though the answer to M. Parson's question (*antea* 196) "Is there any plant this species will not eat?" might well prove to be "Only those few kinds rejected by all larvae" as being too tough or poisonous — if indeed there *are* any such. — A. A. ALLEN.